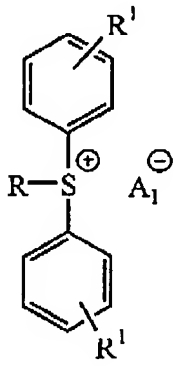
IN THE CLAIMS:

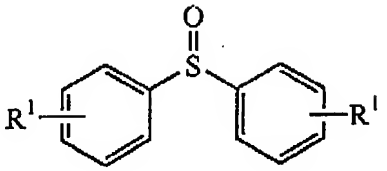
1. (original) A method for producing a triarylsulfonium salt represented by the general formula [4]:



[4]

wherein, two R^1's represent each hydrogen atom, halogen atom, alkyl group, haloalkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy group, acyl group, hydroxyl group, amino group, nitro group or cyano group; R represents an aryl group which may have a substituent selected from a halogen atom, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group, an alkylthio group, a N-alkylcarbamoyl group and a carbamoyl group, and the above substituent is different from one represented by the above R^1; and A_1 represents a strong acid residue,

comprising reacting a diaryl sulfoxide represented by the general formula [1]:



[1]

wherein, R^1 represents the same as above,

and an aryl Grignard reagent represented by the general formula [2]:

RMgX [2]

wherein, X represents a halogen atom; R represents the same as above,

in the presence of an activator with high affinity for oxygen of 3 to 7.5 equivalents relative to the above diaryl sulfoxide, and then reacting the resultant reaction mixture with a strong acid represented by the general formula [3]:

HA_1 [3]

wherein, A_1 represents the same as above,

or a salt thereof.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the activator with high affinity for oxygen is a halogenotriorganosilane.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the activator with high affinity for oxygen is a halogenotrialkylsilane.

4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the activator with high affinity for oxygen is chlorotrimethylsilane.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of use of an activator with high affinity for oxygen is 1.2 to 3 equivalents relative to the aryl Grignard reagent represented by the general formula [2].

6. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a strong acid residue represented by A_1 is an anion derived from a hydrohalic acid represented by the general formula [5]:

HX_1 [5]

wherein, X_1 represents a halogen atom,

a sulfonic acid represented by the general formula [6]:

R^2-SO_3H [6]

wherein, R^2 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group or an aralkyl group, which may have a halogen atom, or a camphor group,

or an inorganic strong acid represented by the general formula [7]:

HM_1Fn [7]

wherein, M_1 represents a metalloid atom; and n represents 4 or 6.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein X_1 is a chlorine atom or a bromine atom.

8. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the metalloid atom represented by M_1 is a boron atom, a phosphorus atom, an arsenic atom or an antimony atom.

9. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction of the diaryl sulfoxide and the aryl Grignard reagent is conducted in the presence of the activator of 4.5 to 7.5 equivalents relative the diaryl sulfoxide.

10. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction of the diaryl sulfoxide and the aryl Grignard reagent is conducted in the presence of the activator of 5 to 7.5 equivalents relative the diaryl sulfoxide.